

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024927

62
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: ARA:GCHAFIN:JM
APPROVED BY: ARA:GCHAFIN
S/S-O:PSHANKLE

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P 312010Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024927

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 1351 ACTION SECSTATE 31 JAN 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1351

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR JOVA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, MX, XF
SUBJECT: VISIT TO MEXICO OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES

REF: MEXICO 1350

1. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SENT ME THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BY
FERNANDO GUTIERREZ BARRIOS (REFTEL) THIS EVENING. TWO PALES-
TINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES ARE VISITING
MEXICO: FAROUK KADDHOUMI OF BEIRUT WHOM MEXICANS IDENTIFY AS
HEAD OF PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT -- A SORT OF SHADOW FOREIGN
MINISTER, NUMBER TWO TO ARAFAT, AND LEADER OF THE PRESENT
DELEGATION; AND DR ISARN SALEUR, PLO MISSION CHIEF IN HAVANNA.
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GOM CONTACT WITH THE TWO (WITH EXCEPTION OF BRIEF GREETING

BY ECHEVERRIA, SEE BELOW) WAS THROUGH MEXICAN JOURNALIST CUM INTELLECTUAL AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR HERNANDO PACHECO (REAL NAME ENRIQUE RUIZ GARCIA; PACHECO SPENDS MUCH TIME IN PRESIDENCY, IS APPARENTLY USED FOR THIS SORT OF CONTACT WHERE GOM DOES NOT WANT TO DEAL DIRECTLY). IN FIRST MEETING, PACHECO AT ECHEVERRIA BEHEST CONVEYED TO PLO REPRESENTATIVES MEXICAN VIEW THAT PLO SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE NEAR IMPOSSIBILITY FOR ISRAEL OF DEALING WITH THE PLO AS AN ORGANIZATION HAVING SOME OF ATTRIBUTES OF PSEUDP-STATE BUT ALSO HAVING AURA OF A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. PACHECO, AGAIN UNDER GOM INSTRUCTION, YESTERDAY SUGGESTED TO PLO REPS THAT PLO SHOULD SOMEHOW SET ITSELF UP MORE ALONG LINES OF STATE, GET RID OF TERRORIST ASPECT. (HE DID NOT GO SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST DUMPING ARAFAT ALTHOUGH THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME IMPLICATION ALONG THOSE LINES.) GENERAL THRUST OF PACHECO SUGGESTIONS WAS THAT PLO JUST ACQUIRE RESPECTABILITY. AT SAME TIME, ECHEVERRIA SENT WORD THROUGH PACHECO THAT HE HAS LIBERAL AND LEFTWING FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES, THAT HE COULD PUT PLO REPS IN TOUCH WITH THOSE FRIENDS, AND THAT SUCH CONTACTS MIGHT BE INTERESTING. THE PLO REPS WERE SOMEWHAT UNRESPONSIVE TO THESE OVERTURES INITIALLY; GOM BELIEVES THEY MAY HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH THEIR SDPQWPALS OVERNIGHT.

2. TODAY, PLO REPS MET AGAIN WITH PACHECO AT PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE, LOS PINOS. GUTIERREZ BARRIOS WAS ALSO PRESENT FOR PART OF MEETING. IN TODAY'S MEETING, MEXICANS HAD IMPRESSION THAT PLO REPS WERE WORRIED ABOUT LEBANON DEVELOPMENTS WHICH THEY (PLO) BELIEVE TO HAVE STRENGTHENED SYRIA (AND THUS USSR). PLO REPS SEEMED MORE AMENABLE TO SUGGESTIONS ABOUT NEED FOR RESPECTABILITY AND SHOWED SOME INTEREST IN TALKING TO AMERICANS. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER, EXPRESS INTEREST IN ECHEVERRIA'S U.S. CONTACTS BUT RATHER INDICATED INTEREST IN TALKING TO US AUGH-ORITIES; MEXICANS THOUGHT THEY HAD SECRETARY KISSINGER IN MIND, AND WERE THINKING OF SOME DISCREET, UNPUBLICIZED MEETING IN A MONTH OR SO.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF TODAY'S MEETING, ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF CAME IN, GREETED PLO REPRESENTATIVES. HE REPEATED MESSAGES PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED THROUGH PACHECO CONCERNING PLO NEED FOR MORE RESPECTABILITY, EMPHASIS ON STATE ASPECTS, GETTING RID OF CONFIDENTIAL

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TERRORIST IMAGE. HE AGAIN SUGGESTED THEY TALK WITH AMERICANS. HE TOLD THEM THERE WOULD BE NO PEACE IN MID-EAST WITHOUT GIVING PLO REPS OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND OR DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER WITH HIM.

4. ECHEVERRIA SENT GUTIERREZ BARRIOS TO PROVIDE ME WITH FOREGOING INFORMATION, AND ASKED THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED TO YOU. HE RECOGNIZES THAT NOTHING MAY COME OF THIS BUT WANTED YOU TO

KNOW, FOR WHATEVER USE YOU MIGHT MAKE OF IT.
JOVA UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE024927
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA:GCHAFIN:JM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760038-0182
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976011/aaaaaaadb.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 MEXICO 1350
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO MEXICO OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, MX, XF, PLO
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006